



Haller, G. O.
Diary
Winnass Exped.
1855

Diary
recording the principal daily
events and occurrences, during the
Winnap Expedition
in the Snake River Indian Country:
by

Granville O. Haller
Capt. 4th Inf. & Post. Maj.
Comdg Expedition

Commencing with Thursday, August
16th 1855, the day after the arrival
of the 1st. 2nd. of the Expedition, at the
Camp at the mouth of Boise River, &c.

Note. This diary is a continuation of the private journal of this Expedition, which is recorded in a little book, with a black or very dark purple cover, by Rot. Maj. Haller. It begins with the arrival of the Troops, the second time, at Fort Boise, just before returning to the Dalles.

Thursday, August 16th 1855.

Took a good long nap, and had a late breakfast. Gave the men rest, and the animals. The Teamsters were employed unloading their wagons, of the Provisions, &c. The A.C.S. caused rations to be issued, and an account of the stores on hand, weighed, and reported.

Sat at the Fort most of the day, giving the necessary directions in relation to the public property, and commenced a long letter to Mrs. Haller. In this manner was occupied until Cayuse John called for me, to return to Camp where he had the head of an Ope roasted and cooled ready for eating. Went up to Camp and invited the officers to the Lunch. Found several parts of the head very good eating indeed, and was surprised to find so much to be eaten on one of them. The muscles at the nose tasted like Tongue, and those of the eye like the kidneys of the hog. After we had tasted and eaten all we wanted, we gave Sababoo and John, some four or five Indians all they liked. Told Wilson & Lechuskey, to go and help themselves, and they carried off all they wanted, and still a great deal was left. I directed the Indians to take it with them.

Thus, on Snake river, I have tasted nothing less than three novelties in the way of eating, viz.; Horse Flesh, Rattle Snake, and the Head of an Ope.

Thursday, August 16th, Continued.

John prepared this bfe head, by digging a hole, then filling it with dry fuel and heaping it up well, then placing stones over it, heated them by firing the wood. When well heated he placed grass and green willow branches over the hot stones and laid the head with hide on it, but split open at the jaw, on these sticks to keep the meat clean, while roasting. He left it remain until the stones cooled off, and on removing it we found the thickest parts of the meat hardly done sufficient. It is worth repeating the experiment.

My old guide, Ocean, called to day to see me. He told me that he had escorted or guided two wagons into California; that he was coming around to meet me, when he met these, and they wanted him to go with them. That he saw some of the murderers among the White Knives, that the White Knives on the road were very numerous, but peaceable and did not molest the two men and their animals. That they are trading extensively with the White people who live just below "the Stone on the Snow Mts." He describes the Whites as living on small branches, which pour out of the Sierra Nevada, away up near the Rocky part of the mountain and near which the snow is constantly found.

Took a good bath in the Boise River with Leaph Russell. This is a great luxury but I have not thought of recording it before. It is not always practicable to bathe, on getting into camp, but when we can, it is a great treat to us.

Friday, August 17th 1855.

Took a late rest and breakfast. Went down to the Fort and wrote out a letter to Dr. Macfely, about matters and things generally, but, telling him how we settled his Express bill, and that I sent a box of Ordnance stores, Blankets, & Quivers, &c., to him, through Dr. Dwyer, but in charge of Sergeant Van Name, and told him what to do with the property.

also finished my letter to Mrs. Haller, & enclosed the address or speech of a clergyman before the Committee of the Massachusetts Legislature, in favor of repealing the Maine liquor law, in that State.

Mr. Sam. Smith handed me a memo of the stores on hand, and after reducing them to rations, I directed that all but 4500 full rations be taken with the train to the Dalles. That the 2000 rations of Coffee and 150 lbs sugar of the Extra rations to be left at McKay's for us, should be forwarded, also a box of Soap. That all the rations at McKay's, over 1000, should also be taken with Dr. Dwyer's train to the Dalles.

I forgot to mention yesterday, that I issued an order directing Dr. Dwyer to proceed to the Dalles with the spare teams, and wagons, all the animals unfit for service for the next thirty days, and all the disposable public stores and property, and to take, on his arrival at the Dalles, immediate measures to discharge and pay off the citizens, whom he takes along with him. &c.

Friday, August 17th, Continued.

This order appoints Lt. Hodges, Adjutant, and gives him a supervision of the public property and stores left behind. Also, expresses my sense of the services of the party leaving me, and thanks them publicly.

Having previously arranged with Mr. Smith to exchange mules, I gave him my faithful black, and received his mare mule. Rode my new animal and think I will like her.

Lt. Hodges issued an order directing Serjt. Wm. Stone and Private Brooke, of H. Co., to proceed to the Dalles with the Train.

Received from Lt. Dwyer a report of the quantity of Subsistence Stores left behind, &c., and the names of the Employees in the Gr. Wm. Depart. who accompany him to the Dalles. He has 2 Soldiers and 18 Citizens with him, and they are rationed to include the end of August.

Wrote a letter reporting the return of Lt. Dwyer and party to the Dalles: the absence of Lt. Day's party & escort to Capt. Olney, when they come back, if our immigrants are expected. State that I will consider my instructions carried out, and will direct my Command to return to the Dalles. I also report my intention to scout Payette's river near its mouth.

This letter is dated on the 18th inst., the date of the Train's leaving, and addressed to Major Townsend, H. Q. of Dep't, Benicia, and sent in another letter to Lt. Forsythe, A. D. C., A. A. S. of the District, for transmittal.

Saturday, August 18th 1855.

Took a late rest and breakfast. Had my mule brought up and rode out, with Dr. Wilham, Capt. Bufell, Tebaboo and John to see the Indians fishing for Salmon, about five miles above us. On the way, forgot Smith's advice not to handle my hat on this mule as it would alarm her, and being annoyed by sand flies, I took off my hat to kill some sitting on it, but as I struck them with one hand and holding the hat in the other, I had no hold of the reins, and away she scampered throwing me out of my seat and spelling me on the ground. I was not hurt and my spectacles were all safe, so I resumed my trip, as she halted after I was off of her.

Going up, we met some thirty or forty Indians coming into camp to look on or trade Salmon. One and another, finding us going to their village, turned back and took us there. We saw about 50 lodges, including the houses for smoking and drying the Salmon. I saw one or two very handsome Buffalo robes, with bead trimmings to them, and tried to buy the best one, but the man wanted a horse for it. Another, but small, the man asked 2 blankets. I noticed all the camps were full of Salmon drying, and some bags were also filled. I noticed several Squaws handsomely dressed with bead and pearl ornaments. I counted two rifles in one lodge, and saw some five or six, in all. The number of Indians, is estimated by Naholy, at 300 souls. Naholy, my old guide, came out and overtook us before going into the village. They are camped on both sides of the river

Saturday, August 18th, Continued

but most on the left bank, and have a dam entirely across from village to village, which is located on the main stream of Boise River. The dam is made of straight pieces of willow woven together, like muslin, by bending the "choilin" pieces around the "filling" and laying another piece of the "filling" on, the "choilin" again crosses it. These pieces stop the salmon and they are either speared, run into baskets set for them, or jump over, but where they are likely to jump or leap, they have this wicker work fixed like a V and they fall between and are thus caught. They spear them by night, ^{by torch} ~~light~~, as the sun shines seems to prevent their running.

Came home at noon. Several Indians called on us. I had met Ocem, my old guide, returning to ~~the~~ fishery, having been in the camp to see me. Got him to turn back, questioned him about the Indians, and told him to come back tomorrow to live in camp that I wanted him for a guide, and would give him a horse, and pay him when through with him. He promised to come in the morning; gave him some bread to eat, and let him go off.

Took a long nap in the afternoon. Got ready for dinner. We amused ourselves in talking until an early bed hour and then retired. The weather has been exceedingly warm since arriving here.

Dr. Dyer this party started early this morning, all of them having crossed, with the property and animals last evening, to the other side of the River.

Sunday, August 19th 1850.

Took a late rest and breakfast. At 9 o'clock, a.m., walked down to Fort to bring up this diary. Wrote out, in the old book, my proceedings for Wednesday, the 15th inst, and brought up this book to this place.

While writing Dr. Milham and Dr. Hodges came in, and after a little time, Kaholy brought us a water-melon, much to our surprise. We cut it open, but found it not quite ripe, still, did ample justice to it. I tried, at Dr. Milham's suggestion, a little pepper with the melon, but did not think it any improvement.

I forgot to note down, on the 17th inst, that I loaned Dr. Dyer, the 50 cents which I turned over to Dr. Hodges, who, with a dollar he had, was able to pay Kaholy \$1.50 for ferrying McQuirk & Forchill, over Snake River, before the ferry here was re-established by Isaac's men.

Wrote out, for Kaholy, a recommendation setting forth his faithful services when my guide, and stating that he wished to become an American citizen, cultivate the soil, and that he was deserving of kindness and consideration from the American people, in my opinion, &c.

Read to day, a long article in the Westminster Review No. 122 - Oct. 5th, 1849, about the decline of the Christian Religion, a subject I had never before heard of. This religion, like the German language, was peculiar to the Teutonic Race, and struggled with the Christian Religion for 8 centuries for existence, viz, from the 4th to the 11th century, when it was lost. It seems to have prepared the way for the struggle with Popery, and produced Luther, Cromwell, & other prominent protestants.

Monday, August 20th 1855.

Rested until called to breakfast and then looked around after breakfast and spoke to the officers of my plan to scout Payette river, when I went to the Fort, - about 9 o'clock, am.

Sent Sababo after Ocean who had failed to come in to our camp yesterday, agreeably to his promise, and told him to try and get me the Buffalo Robe I had fancied when up at the Fishery.

I forgot to note down on the 17th that I turned over the 2000 of Irving's Astoria to Lt. Dryer's care, with the request that he would deliver them to Wm. McKay as he passed there on his return to the Dalles.

Wrote up those events which occurred at the close of our expedition, which I had not noted at the time, in the back of my old diary or journal.

Sent Serjt. Jones, of 2 Co., Corp. Brown, of 1 Co., and thirteen men, with August John as guide, up the Boise River on the North side, until they reach the trail on which we travelled last fall in coming from Payette to Boise River. They are to go up the trail to the stream of water, during the night, and encamp there until morning to-morrow. Then proceed toward Payette River, and when they meet the forks in the trail to take the right hand fork, and proceed to the river where they may encamp to-morrow night. Over where they may encamp to-morrow night, that I expect Capt. Russell or myself will be there too by that time. He is directed if he sees Indians to try to capture them, but if they burn fire on them as they are in the country of our enemy. They left at 3 o'clock. am.

Capt. Russell and myself, each with 20 men, are getting ready to leave to-night about 12 o'clock for Payette River by our old route; thence, to diverge and scout up and down the River. Sababo returned with Ocean, it seems he had run a Salmon Spear in to his left leg, and was too lame to come.

Tuesday, August 21st 1855

Went to bed early last night, in hopes of getting a good rest before midnight, but the horses having been picked up about the camp, kept up such a noise as rendered sleeping impossible. Rose about 11 o'clock, found Sababo had not seen to my Command being ready, so took enough of rations extra from me, to supply him.

Capt. Russell & myself, with our parties, started about mid-night. The course from Fort Boise is E. & N. E. The guide, Ocean, was a long time getting into the trail as the night was quite dark, and the stars near the horizon were invisible from the hazy atmosphere. We reached the bottom of Payette river at 5 o'clock, and halted, to inform Ocean what he had now to do, while the men rested their animals. He was to conduct the captain's party to where the Minnesties were, when they were watching and following him on his former visit, while Sababo and I would scout down the river. I would estimate the distance to the halt at 2 miles. On starting again, Serjt. Laugherty reported that five of the captain's party were missing and he thought they had gone back: I then gave him two of my men leaving Serjt. Clifford, of 1 Co., Corp. Diche, of 1 Co., and 16 men for the scout.

The river lay off to the E. about 2 miles further and after going a half mile or so, we turned off from the captain, marching N. 35° W. for 5 miles where we entered the river trail, running N. 80° W. for 3 miles when we halted at a bend, on the main body of river, where it appears to be a fine large body of water.

*Note. At the place we struck the river, I was struck with the peculiarity of the bends and turns of the river somewhat like the diagram above.



Tuesday, August 21st, continued.

and allowed the animals to feed while the men cooked their breakfast. We halted for 2 hours.

Continued N. 70° W. for 3 1/2 miles, then N. 60° W. for 1 mile, at which point, the stream turns inward run against a high bluff at right angles to it, then followed at its foot. This bluff is 3 miles or more long. We marched parallel to it, N. 80° W. for 2 miles, then *turned from it and marched N. 70° W. for 2 miles, but a gully nearly, and then crossed a running slough, just where it left the main stream, and marched nearly due W. for 2 miles, but lost the trail and had to move right and left to find one but did not succeed until at the end of these two miles, we descended the slough, and found the main trail. Through most of this region we found late Indian signs and found two lodges, but had been deserted for a week or two, and seemed to be the Pamash lodges, at convenient fishing places.

From the main trail we marched N. 80° W. for 2 1/2 miles, through sage desert looking for a camp, and at last found one in a little bottom, which also had Indian lodges, 20 days old, well secluded. The last of these 2 1/2 miles was on the bluff which came close to the river.

The valley of Payette's river in some places is very wide; it was probably 2nd wide where we entered it, and wide and quite 5 or 6 miles at the high bluff mentioned, and the bluff itself could hardly be seen, and as we turned off from there, the south bluff came rapidly in and struck the river, leaving the valley about 2 miles wide, and the river, just where we encamped, ran at the foot of each, leaving large fine islands between, covered with good grass, apparently.

*Note. The River continues along the bluff, and one branch below bends off from it suddenly, causing the trail to strike straight for it, and hits it at the slough

Wednesday, August 22nd, 1855. continued.

Having made a long march yesterday did not hurry, but rose, breakfasted, and was on the road about 15 min. of 7 o'clock. As we ascended the bluff and continued down the river for 2 miles then descended into the bottom, as the river turned towards the N., and continued 1/2 mile further, the course generally thus far N. 80° W., when we turned a bend of the river, or due for half a mile (1/2) marched N. 100° W. to the Salmon fishing on Payette's river, where we found a great many lodges and Salmon drying houses. I counted 14 lodges on our side and 14 drying houses; on the other side there were more, but it was unpleasant and filthy that I did not stop there to count them.

The people were not afraid and did not attempt to conceal themselves. I suppose there must be very nearly 40 warriors there, and almost 200 souls. I observed however that many faces were the same I had seen at Fort Boise and the Salmon fishing on Boise River, so presume they have already been included in the estimate of the Boise village.

Although I was on the lookout going down Snake River, I did not take notes. I secured a guide at the village and proceeded rather on an exploring tour, to determine the existence of a river beyond Payette, called Weider's river, of the size, length, course, and its distance from Payette's river but little, in fact nothing, is known by the Public. As for an enemy the Indians assured me there were none. They say the Winemates have run off to the mountains, and suppose they have gone in the direction of Salmon River, so there is a faint hope that Dr. Day or Capt. Russell may come across their trail and strike a blow at them.

Wednesday, Aug. 22nd, Continued.

About 8½ miles from the Indian village the trail forks, the left hand fork continues along the river N. of W., the right hand fork proceeds N. for ½ mile, when it ascends a high bluff from which I halted and took notes.

This bluff, from our trail, runs N. W. for 1 mile, and S. E. for 1 mile: at the latter it turns due South, and running down for 2 miles, with 2 particular draws in this distance, then loses its bluff character and has gentle slopes, as far South as to Payette's River. At the N. W. end, the bluff turns due W. for ½ mile, then bends to the Northward and keeps near the trail of which mention will soon be made on my return.

Notes, of the route traversed.

Distance (miles)	Course	Remarks.
2.	N. 10° W.	From brow of bluff to a turn of trail to a gentle slope leading down to the river.
1.	N. N. E.	Halted, took notes. The guide says this River heads N. 5° W. as pointed out by a stick.
1.	N. W.	From the trail, over to River without a trail: the trail led to the Ford N. N. E.
1½	S. 80° W.	along the river to bluff and ascended.
2.	West	on the bluff. Last ½ m. away from River without trail.
3.	S 50° E	descended bluff and returned in sight of N. R.
½	Half of oval	winding round at the foot of high bluff.
1½	S. S. E.	to where the trail forks.
½	S. S. W.	To Camp on Snake River. Good grass & descent.

The trail leading down Snake River and across the bluff to Weiser's River, and thence northward, is the Nez Percé trail, by which they come to Fort Boise. It is a rough road, and takes 8 days to Salmon River.

Wednesday, Aug. 22nd, Continued.

The trail on the bluff passes through a nice valley, nearly a mile wide, with sloping hills on each side for 2 mi., then descends and crosses a little draw and rising a gentle slope proceeds to the Ford on Weiser's River which is a shallow place where the Indians usually put their fishing dams. I am told by Sababo that they usually catch here the White Salmon after they cannot catch any here on the other streams.

The River is seen away off to the East by its wooded banks, but the weather was so misty as to prevent good observations. The course of the stream is very serpentine, but does not, I believe, break into so many islands as Boise or Payette Rivers, and its general direction is S. 10° W. for 6 or 8 miles. Just below the Ford ½ mile - a branch empties into it, that lies in a nice broad valley coming from N. N. E. to the S. S. W. This branch is long, but rises in the mountains on the West side of it, and bends round then flows S. S. W. The Nez-perce trail proceeds up this branch's valley to where it comes from the West, then strikes off and proceeds to the main river, which is not 20 miles off, and to the North. Having made a bend from thence to the East, crossing the mountains and finally coming in to the bottom, where I found it, flowing Westward into Snake River. It is a considerable River, as large as John Day's River, if not larger, was deep where we struck it and pretty wide. The water tastes warm (warmer than Payette's) and has a flock of geese and ducks that we saw.

Continued.

terminates in this place. In this unpleasantly from Spring: we were two 5 m. from river bottom water horses. over to 2 m. when further to

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Wednesday, Aug. 22^d, Continued.

The bluff turned the course to the West, where it wound out from ~~them~~ by a large bend to the northward, and thence for a mile or more ran through the bottom lands of Snake River, apparently due W. (perhaps a few degrees N. of it) and emptied into Snake River at a bend where it turns to the West and perhaps W.S.W.

Following up the Course of Snake River from the bluff (my point of observation) I found it to give something like the accompanying Changes of its Course, &c.

Before going ^{up} Snake River I wish to note a few facts more, in regard to the Country North of Weiser's River, which I had nearly overlooked. The North bank of this new River is very hilly, and, in some places, the hills are bluff. The valley, through which the branch comes alone presents a pleasing view. On the South side the valley is more pleasing, the hills rising by gentle swells, and as we went down it a small bluff made out to the waters edge. We see on the North side of this river the beginning of the tremendous rugged hills or mountains between it and the Salmon River. At its mouth, and below on Snake River (some distance off) we saw through the mist, that the hills on both sides approached Snake River, and I also thought ~~to know that the river continued~~ (and he pointed out the course) in the General direction of S. 80° W. until it came to the bend where the wagon road, between Birch Cr. & Priest River, passes along its bank - say miles off.

Wednesday, Aug. 22^d, Continued.

We saw indistinctly the mountains on the opposite side of Snake River: the Course seemed to run North and South, with some lateral deviations. Coming over towards the East.

From the mouth of the new River, up the Snake, the general course seems to be S 40° E for 3 or 4 m. then one of its channels comes over clear to the bluff more than 2 mi. (in a westerly course from the bluff) while the other passing on some distance comes over towards the trail (East) making a large island, with fine grass, of the Snake in the diagram.



The river has a slough as represented and changes the course of the trail. The figure is not laid down with due regard to the points of the compass. We encamped on the bend of Snake River as indicated, having travelled to day about 25 miles.

Before ascending the bluff, I directed Capt. Vick, of I Co, with Owen, the packer and his packs, to pick out some good ground on Snake River, where there would be easy access to the water, and encamp until my return, which, if late would be our camp for the night, or otherwise we would retrace our steps towards the village.

Concluded on my return, to camp for the night, and our guide left us soon after and returned to his home, having received contributions of bread, &c, from the men for his expenses.

Capt. Olney, on my return, I found has returned this afternoon from Fort Hall, with his escort of 7 men of Col. 2^d Art. All well; one Soldier's Horse given out and had to be abandoned on the road, the only casualty on the trip. The mail also arrived.

Continued.

minates in this unpleasant manner from Spring. We were two 5 am. from 800 or 900 feet from river bottom water horses, over to 1/2 mi. when further to

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Thursday, August 23^d 1855

Rose, breakfasted, and made the start at 25 mins past 5 o'clock, am.

Miles	Course	Notes & remarks.
0 3/4	S. 16° E.	To some brush at the bend (rounding it)
1 1/4	S.	" end of the bend in the river
0 1/4 +	S. S. W.	" holdover or Concave bend of river
2 3/4	S.	" bluff. (See notes.)
3 -	S. 10° W.	" Indian Village (about, travelled by Soldiers)
0 1/4	S. 10° W.	" round the foot of bluff (quartz)
1 1/2 +	S. 30° W.	" point of land - mouth of Payette River
0 1/2	S. 10° W.	" bend of Payette River.
1.	S. 40° E.	" Indian Village
0 1/2	S. 10° E.	retraces former trail to bend of river.
1 1/4	S. 15° E.	made a trail to bluff - our true course.
2 1/4	S. 20° E.	met the main trail to Boise - found a small trail and travelled one mile from it to this trail to descent into ravine.
0 1/2	S. 20° E.	"
0 1/2	S. 20° E.	" ascent out of the ravine
1	S. 20° E.	" edge of bluff - descending into bottom land
0 1/8	S. 15° E.	descent and passage around foot of a bluff.
1 1/2 +	S. 12° E.	From bluff to another bluff - through bottom along the slopes - gentle descent.
1	S.	" " " " " "
0 3/4	S. 12° W.	" " " " " "
1 1/4	S. 12° E.	to a spring. At 1 m. crossed a bluff in bottom
6 ±	S. ±	to end of high bluffs - descending between horses
2 1/2	S. 20° W.	to Fort Boise
0 1/4	S. 40° E.	to Camp near mouth of Boise River.

There are several islands, hardly worthy of note, just above the camp. But Snake River has one peculiarity worthy of notice, viz. at several places it divides its waters and spreading out for 2 miles or more encircles a great many little islands, presenting picturesque groups.

* Two different trails to village - one by Sn. Riv. & the other

Thursday, Aug. 23^d, Continued.

The journal is kept going up Snake River (South) and first notes the foot of islands, &c. 1 mile from Camp met narrow island (brush) day 1/2 mile long. 1 mile above this one another and broken, 1/2 m. long.

4 miles from Camp met a picturesque group. The accompanying sketch shows the topography of the river and West side, with the group of islands and topography there, on the West side of the river. The bluff at these islands in the bend is day 1/4 m. out like makes from river N. 30° E. or S. side runs off about S.E. pointing to the end of the bluffs or hills lying near the river (corner of the two rivers Sn. & Pay. Rivers) 3 miles from Camp the bluffs lost their bold appearance and became sloped into gentle hills.

The point a bears N. 80° W. from the Indian Village, and presents the appearance of a valley or drain between it and the hills beyond.

The corner hill, between two rivers, bears from village S. 80° E. day 2 m. off.

Leaving the village for Ft. Boise.

Rose my dog (Clifford) a tall sagebrush to march for, S. 20° E., at the edge of a hill or bluff, having no trail, and then rode off to the west to overlook the River. This was done just after rising the bluff 1/2 m. from Payette river.

SNAKE RIVER I found coming from the S. E. to the N. W.; it runs in this direction for many miles. Across the river, we saw the Malheur river, flowing nearly due N., for 2 miles, and emptying

Continued.

terminates in a station. In this unpleasant place were two m. from Spring. There were two S. 5 m. from 800 to fur river bottom water horses. go over to 6 m. when further to

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Indian horses with firing horses is located on the long Island, as the place indicates at 0

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Thursday, Aug. 23^d. Continued.

tying into the Snake, not very far from the general course of Payette river - perhaps 2 mi - and has the bluff on its W. side and bottom between it and Snake River.

For 2 mi the bluff, on which we stood, lay close to the river, which has a great many fine islands, is a mile wide, and in some places more. 2 miles from the bluff of Payette river, the Snake river bends to the right and the bluffs hug it closely. For 2 mi and more, we keep near the bluffs descending a ravine (drain) coming in from East first then 2 mi and then N. 20° W. to the river. Passing over these bluffs, we descend into the river bottom, marching along the foot of a long bluff into the bottom. This bottom is hemmed in by peculiar bluffs running from river S.E. for 1 mile, Eastward then South for a good mile, and then S.W. for 1/2 mi, and then a short bluff made due South, when the bluffs began to slope and become hills. These bluffs are high. The river makes out about 2 mi here but begins to approach the trail opposite the south bluff. On the W. side is a broad bottom and Fabius says that Malheur comes out at that place, as we saw the outline, in the hazy atmosphere, of a mountain that is near the river.

1/4 mi. N. of the Spring we descended a bluff into a bottom, and crossing it part way, marched on the side of the bluff for another 1/4 mi. The trail rose on the side of bluff, about 20 yards from a little spring of good water, and above the spring, bottom, we saw, was marshy. At the end of this side trail we ascended a bluff, and the trail for 6 miles, sometimes a little E., then a little N. of South, general course,



Thursday, August 23^d. Continued.

keeps along the high land, which terminates in bluffs, all the distance, with one exception. In this march there are 12 ravines making unpleasant descents and ascents, located 1 1/4 mi. & 1 3/4 mi. from Spring: then 1/2 mi further, and 1/2 mi further still there were two close to gether; but, generally, 1/2 mi. apart. 5 1/2 mi. from Spring we descended bluff into bottom and 800 yds further, crossed a bluff ridge of 80 yds, into the river bottom where we were able to get to the river and water horses. This bottom continues, with low bluffs, over to Boise River. We travelled S. 20° W. for 1 1/2 mi when we reached Fort Boise, and about one mile further to get into camp.

On arriving at Fort Boise, met Mr. Charles of the H. Bay Co., who had returned from a visit to Fort on the Walla Walla, and Mr. McQuirk, the Express Rider, who had arrived (with Mr. Charles,) on the 22nd.

Found all my people, well when he left the Dalles that the gold excitement was raging still, and great improvements were making in the village on the Reserve. Went to camp and found two letters for me, one from Mrs. Haller giving me the news, and telling me about the little ones, and that Mr. Arnold was carrying out his promises, &c., and the other official, from Maj. Rains' A.A.S.G., finding fault at my not writing to him, when he learns by private advices that important events have taken place, &c.

Looked over the accounts of the assaults on Sebastopol by the allies, their first successes and then reversed. There was severe fighting, and if the place falls, it will deserve credit, and no doubt receive it, for its protracted and gallant defence.

Went over to see Capt. O'Byrne, and learnt that 25 wagons are coming this way, he was told by good authority, or mountaineer, Brooke. He left word for them to come by the Cammash Prairie. He had hired an interpreter, and a horse, for soldiers, at the Mr. M's expense.

Friday, August 24th 1855

Took a good, long nap, rose and prepared for breakfast. After looking at the papers awhile went down to the Fort, and commenced writing up my journal and copy my notes. I succeeded in writing up the 21st & 22^d instant, but the Indians, who had come in with me from Payette river, called my attention off a little, and prevented my bringing up the 23^d also.

Returned to camp, and found Capt. Russell and his party had returned, that he had lost Pro. Hindemann, or Deco, (who had previously returned) and that 5 of his party had never joined him. Thus 6 out of 20 men had failed to be with him. I had given him two of my men, making his party 16 quite. Sergt. Jones joined him, on the 22^d, with 15 men more.

Sergt. Jones' party went by Boise River and my old trail over to Payette river, and Capt. Russell scouted up Payette river, crossing to N. side and struck the Creek which empties into the bend of the river, where I made the cut off, last fall, and where the Minnetas were concealed when he ^{was} chased for them last month, and after scouting it proceeded up stream, and the two parties met at the spot where Snake John had been captured, when, as previously arranged, they scouted together far up into the Pine hills.

Gave my guide, to Milner's river and an old man, who conducted to horses and showed me the way, and gave rations of subsistence stores.

Spent Saturday evening in bringing up this diary to completion, in order to commence my official reports, &c., as soon as possible.

Capt. Olney kindly interpreted for me, while in Camp, conversing about the trails, and with Ocan.

Saturday, August 25th 1855

Rose at a good hour, and, while waiting for breakfast, got our blank musta rolls and returned, and gave directions to Sergt. Major and Priv. Wilson, how to proceed, and have the Port returns, Comp. Returns books, ready prepared, so as to fill up blanks promptly on the 31st. and have the mail ready by the next day. Examined and signed the Provision Returns, and noted the issues.

Went to the Fort and arranged for Wilson to write there. Wrote up part of my journal when Tabasco brought in some Indians to inform me about the Nezperce and War-vate-Raw trails. Suspended writing and commenced about trails and after talking for several hours could not obtain much from them, so adjourned to meet in the Camp, where I hoped to get Capt. Olney's assistance. Consumed the afternoon in fruitless attempts to get ideas of distance. All I could learn was the course to Salmon river, by the Nez Perce trail, was N. 12° E. and that they counted 3 eleven sleeps, but to where puzzled us I took it to be Salmon river, but they had it otherwise, making 15 sleeps to Salmon River, and about 8 or 9 miles thence to the Nez Perce River - which, if true, is a branch of the Kootenai River.

They had been too long ago, in sight of the snow mountains of the Cascade Range and had travelled 17 days, &c., but we could get no clue to what point the trail would lead us to, beyond the Malheur River.

Have the Indians some rations for their good intentions to enlighten me and dismisses them, when Ocan became discontented and complained that he was not fed enough, when I gave him a blanket, and discharged him, as he did not know how to respect his Dyak.

Gave Ocan my old pantaloons, and his baby a neckerchief. Ahahoy, a Sandwich Islander, brought us two very nice Muskratons as a present.

Sunday, August 26th 1855

Rose at a good hour, although went to bed late, as I was writing up diary, and the book sat by the light reading.

Went down to Fort, and drew a sketch of Messer's River, (according to Mathew Dogga) and Mary's River (according to Archy McIntosh, who says the Half-breeds used to call it) as it appeared to us, through the mist, during the reconnaissance on the 22^d of the month. A clear day would have given me great satisfaction. I have tried to fix the names by letting the Indians that I give that river my name, and they call it Major Haller's River. The sketch is at the end of this book.

An Indian came in and gave a very long and in some degree satisfactory account of the river, giving the lengths, courses, &c., and names of the several branches. He makes its length 60 to 70 mi.

Commenced preparing for the usual monthly report of the operations of the Troop, and had Wilson make out the monthly Company Returns as far as he could go on with them.

Read a little in anatomy, this afternoon, but did not improve myself much by it, as I recollects but little, and understands less.

Mr. Charles & Mr. McIntosh came up in the evening, and sat with me. The other officers joined and we sat up till late, after the citizens left us, to go back to the Fort.

We enjoyed some of Mr. Haller's Syrup, and afterwards some Commissary Whiskey. ~~Wednesday~~ Saturday, Saloby came up and presented two fine large ripe musk melons which enjoyed exceedingly.

Monday, August 27th 1855

Rose late and breakfasted. Went down to the Fort and commenced writing out the Memoranda or history of our operations that is to go on the Field Report, and one, that included only the history of my Company, &c. for the Company Returns, for August 1855. Finished the Histories above alluded to. Returned to Camp early - read a little in Dr. Willhae's Book - got a very early dinner, took a nap, then a dinner, went over to our old artillery with Capt. Olney, when I returned to my tent and retired to bed.

A report came to Camp that an Indian was seen going over to the Island on which, on ~~the~~ ^{the} 22^d are herded, when a party of six men with a ~~some~~ ^{some} of our ~~officer~~ ^{officer}, was sent down to keep a lookout.

Tuesday, August 28th 1855

Rose late and breakfasted. Gave the Lieut. Major and Wilson the Histories to be entered on the Returns and directed that they be copied. Went to the Fort, read the newspapers, wrote a letter, and tasted of a fine musk melon presented by Saloby. Found that, on counting the animals, they have not been disturbed.

Returned to Camp, read some, took a nap, and spent part of the time in conversation with the officers, until bed time, when I retired.

This was the day, that the Artillery were to get back if practicable, and towards two and three o'clock, we began to scan the horizons in hopes of seeing signs of the party, but none appeared.

Wednesday August 29th 1855

Rose late and breakfasted. Gave Sergt. May my letter book and directed him to prepare the letters for transmitting my monthly returns. Tried to arrange all my papers so as to be able to fill the figures in, on Muster day, sign them and be ready for forwarding.

Had an interview with an Indian who seemed to know all about the streams emptying into my River, and obtained from him their names, courses, distances, &c. This took considerable time as an Indian is always slow in imparting his knowledge, mostly because he cannot convey an idea of distances, &c.

Read some to day. Retired early. Men on the lookout a good deal to day for St. Day's party.

Thursday August 30th 1855

Went to the Fort, after breakfast, and tried to write but did not feel inclined, as I felt indisposed. Concluded to return to camp, and met the Doctor on the road, who, on hearing my symptoms advised me to take pills. Had a look out almost all day for St. Day's party. In the tent pretty much all the rest of the day, having stopped a little while with Capt. Olney, on my way up, and obtained tobacco to replace that borrowed from Wilson. A single forward at 2 o'clock footed us, as we looked to with eyes.

Read some to day, in a clever novel called Harry Coverdale, his Courtship and what became of him. Went early to bed having a slight headache, took four pills (Bulmar's vegetable) and in the night was very much better.

Friday August 31st 1855

In trying to rise, when called to breakfast, I found I had a severe headache; finally, however, got down and sat. Felt very badly and laid down until time for muster and inspection - 10 o'clock. Mustered the Infantry, and inspected them all, and 14 men of Co L, 3rd Art, the Gr. Mrs men, and Guard, &c.

Found medicine was operating and in going off to the bushes observed the men on the wagons looking about in hopes of seeing St. Day's party. I pointed out to Mr. May what I thought to be a dash and told him to watch it, that St. Day would come in that direction. It proved to be St. Mendell's and make Oth's dust, and the Camp was all excitement. We found St. Day's Command was near at hand, and soon they all came in.

Found St. Day's party had been as far down Salmon River, as Fort Lemhi, the new Division of the Mormons, about 20 miles from the dividing ridge in the Rocky Mountains. On their return they succeeded in meeting some of the Murderers of the Ward train, and while St. Day was arranging to arrest the guilty and separate them from the rest who, it had appeared, were not present at the massacre, they attempted to escape, and he shot two of them, one of whom was killed on the spot by the soldiers and the other was evidently wounded. Sergt. Thompson, of Co. D, also shot two dead. They captured and hung one man. They had captured the thief with the stolen horse and made but he made his escape about 2 o'clock in the morning, by running direct towards the officers' sleeping place and the sentinels were afraid to

Friday, August 31st. Continued.

fire on him, for fear of striking an officer. He left his mule and horse however. Lt. Gracie was detached by night to arrest an Indian who had been engaged in the shooting of the Annis-grants on the Cammash Prairie, and next day succeeded in making him prisoner, and they brought him in.

Old John's son, and sons-in-law, with a little party, who were with the murderers at the time Lt. Day shot them, were told to come in and see me, and although Lt. Day did not expect that they would do it, yet they overtook his party and came in with him.

I mustered Lt. Day's Compy and the animals Examined and signed my Company Muster-rolls, also, Capt. Russell's roll of Compy K. Examined and signed my Compy Monthly return and letter forwarding it to Lt. Forsythe. Found the Sergt. Major had no Cartridge paper to enclose these documents so will have to get them ready for transmission at Fort Dallas, Tex.

Found my head-ache abated towards evening; took a bath with Lt. Gracie; afterwards, went to the Fort and wrote up my journal, looked over my papers and signed some of them, separated those that required immediate attention and commenced my report of the Operations for August.

I forgot to mention that in the early part of the afternoon I mustered the animals that had come from the island (north of Day's) and also examined the Indian prisoner closely about the shooting affair.

Saturday, September 1st. 1855

Wrote last night until after 11 o'clock when the candle burnt out and I returned to camp. Found on going to bed that a multitude of Fleas had fastened on my drawers and before I was asleep they had gotten inside and began to bite. I arose and threw off my drawers but too late, for some had dropped into my bed clothes and when I returned they began. I was in a fever all night and slept but little.

Rose for breakfast and found my head aching gone that troubled me yesterday.

Gave orders in relation to military matters. Sent off a Corp and Sif men to meet the Immigrant Train with 6 days provisions - Directed him to wait one day at Camp Mansfield, if he did not meet them, then to go to the marshy spring and wait a day, then return. If he met them to enquire about the chances of others being behind, and if a small party and his rations would allow, to wait and return with the last party.

Gave Lt. Day's Company rations to end of month, and directed him to remain until 13th to rest his animals, and longer, if a train should be reported as coming that way, then, when train has passed, to come on to the Dalles.

The Doctor, Whitland, of K Co., 4th Regt, and the Ambulance to remain with Lt. Day's Command.

Capt. Russell's Company and all the surplus stores of property, the four Indian Prisoners, &c. were to march on Monday, the 3^d, for Fort Dalles and we arranged that he would get in on the 20th.

Mr. Mendell to come in with Capt. Russell. Private Wilson I Co., and Lischewsky, of K Co., 4th Regt, to accompany me to the Dalles. The Express to start to-day to Malheur river, where I would overtake it in the night. &c.

Saturday September 1st 1855

Sunday September 2nd 1855

Woke up and found every body awake.

My horse & mule, also McQuirk's horse were not to be seen. McQuirk went off and found their trail, and brought in a mule to saddle up and pursue them. Fortunately, Capt Olney has some spare animals and gave me a horse to ride forward in the direction of the animals, so we lost no time by their absence. Started at 7 o'clock - nooned at Birch Cr. (half way to Snake River) at 12 M. Started at 2 o'clock and encamped on the banks of Burnt River just below the last crossing (before going up the branch) at 7 1/2 o'clock. distance full 45 miles.

Monday September 3rd 1855

Woke up 10 min³ of 5 o'clock and waked up the parties. Got my breakfast, saddled up, and saw my party ready to start - 1/4 after 6 o'clock when near the head of Burnt River met Wornsley with Pack train, who got out Mrs. Haler's letter for me. Directed him to go tomorrow to the Sulphur Spring and there await the arrival of Mr. Hodges who would take out what he wanted, &c. Left him at 8 1/2 o'clock, am.

Nooned at Spring, on last branch of Burnt River - arrived at 11 1/2 o'clock - started at 1 1/2 o'clock and arrived 1/4 past 5 o'clock on Powder River. just a mile or so above the camp of July 9th.

Arranged this evening with Capt Olney to go ahead of the Packs to morrow and encamp on Grande Ronde River, and next day at McKay's. Selected Wilson McQuirk to accompany me, and arranged the Packs accordingly. ~~Flare clouds threaten~~ rain and had my tent pitched. The wind blew very hard.

Tuesday, September 4th 1855

The rain came on during the night and
waked me up: congratulates myself for having raised
my tent, and felt sorry I could not carry it with
me over the Blue Mountains, but our pack animal
would have enough to carry it, to travel 45 mi. a day.
Ran at 5 o'clock. Had a

enough to carry to travel 45 mi a day.
 o'clock, owing to things being wet, and troublesome.
 marched to camp on heights of Brandon Pass (7th July)
 and noon - arrived at 7 1/2 before 1 o'clock. It rained
 hard, for some time, during the march. After our
 arrival, we had a hail storm, and sometime af-
 ter that several tremendous clouds hung overhead
 and a thunder storm threatened, but the clouds passed
 by, while the thunder growled until we resumed
 our journey - started at 2 3/4 o'clock PM crossed
 over the Bonc and up the hill when finding it
 late and a thunder storm hanging over Brandon
 Bonc River, I turned over to the creek on the
 new route, and arrived there just before dark,
 but finding no water in the stream went down
 it, when it began to rain and grow very dark
 dark, so we had to halt, and went to bed with-
 out coffee or a wash. Rained with blankets
 a sack of meat, and Wilson and I slept under
 it. I opened a box of sardines and supped
 on them and had bread and gave the company
 some of them - still a few were left.

Note. This evening Capt. Olney and Mr. Quirk seemed I thought, impatient and a little irritable - it was natural under such disagreeable circumstances - but being old campaigners, I expected them to put on a good face and laugh at the storm.

Wednesday, September 5th 1855

Rose very early; having no water to wash
or get breakfast with, I went off for the horses
and the wet grass made me very wet. We sud-
denly up and started 5 o'clock 10 miles and had
not gone 50 paces before we found water in the
Creek, but we went down the Creek and in 2 miles
reached the old (lower) crossing of Grange Double
River, and continued on until we arrived at Lee's
campment at 10 o'clock and noon. Here we
took breakfast and lunch together and immediately
after I scrambled up my mule and started at 11 1/2
o'clock for McCays Ranch and arrived there at
5 o'clock. Came down the Unalaktila by the trail on
the River and when it crossed to the other side
I turned from the River and got entangled in a
wind-fall just above our Depot Camp - the
dead trees above our old camp - and lost some
time by it.

time by it. Found Mr. Isaacs at McKays, also, a
Dr. Millard, of Portland, and an old man, who
have been out prospecting.

Mr. Mrs. Whitney, Mr. McKay did all they could to make my stay agreeable, and the clean plates, the nice vegetables, onions, Tomatoes, Green Corn, new Potatoes, and the Cream in the Office made the Supper a great treat. There we had Water Melon and Musch Melon, some Whiskey too, and altogether, felt as if "once more in America."

in answer to Enquiries about Mr. Arnold's Cows and Cattle and found they were there still, and he had not written about sending them down to the Dalles. Speaks highly of the Red Forkmen and the calf.

Learned all the news, about the Dalles, & the Gold Mines, but nothing of interest.

